

From: Stephen Dampier
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/20/01 2:07pm
Subject: Microsoft Case

Hello,

I'm a professional web developer who works in a corporate environment. 95% of our software is made by Microsoft. 98% of our computers run Microsoft operating systems. I am the sole Macintosh user although there are several Linux users here.

It is very difficult in the environment to use anything but Microsoft operating systems and software such as the Office suite of applications including Excel, Word, PowerPoint etc. It is also very difficult to use an email client that is not Microsoft branded since other clients will not interface with the server software. Most people use Internet Explorer, another Microsoft product. More and more websites offer only Microsoft centric video formats.

We are essentially unable to exercise our freedom in this country to choose a computer and operating system, web browser, email program, office software etc from other manufacturers other than Microsoft.

I recommend that Microsoft be required to provide the specifications and source code to their operation systems, office software, email server programs, web browsers, and media software so that everyone is playing on the same field and can actually write their own software that is compatible with ALL Microsoft products. Essentially, Microsoft products should be made open source. There can be no open and free market until this happens.

Further, the companies leaders should be punished for their lack of cooperation, out right lies told to the court and their anti-competitive practices that they have practiced and continue to practice. A jail term would work better than mere fines since money means very little to the richest men in the world.

You should take all care to prevent Microsoft from squashing other technology based markets such as the gaming consol market etc. We need restrictions put into place that will prevent big boys like Microsoft from coming in and JackBooting all over the competition.

Sincerely,

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